



CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

TURN IT AROUND YOUTH GROUP HOLD VIGIL



Photo by JD Mangrum

A group of residents, State Rep. Dan Ryan and the Turn it Around youth group gathered in the Peace Park on Tuesday afternoon for a peaceful flower planting and a vigil for justice organized by Turn It Around. The Peace Park was founded in 2018 and is currently being redesigned. The moment was not only to celebrate community, but also to pray for peace and healing in the nation. See Pages 6 and 7 for more photos.

Taking to Task

DA Rollins, Boston Police Union spar over Tweets as protests unfold – both peaceful and violent

By Seth Daniel

The Boston Police Patrolmen's Association (BPPA) and DA Rachael Rollins are in a war of words this week over Tweets by the DA that the police union say incited some of the violence that occurred early Monday morning after a peaceful protest broke up on Boston Common.

It has been a week of uncertainty and uneasiness throughout the country, and Boston has been a focal point for some of the protesting and some of the violent acts and looting – though Charlestown has been spared from any violence or looting.

There have been nearly 70 arrests in Boston, likely more people sought, though there have been thousands that have shown up to protest peacefully the death of George Floyd at the hand of some Minneapolis police officers.

In the midst of that have been a lot of words, and DA Rollins has been very active on social media – and now the BPPA is taking her to task on some of those postings.

“On behalf of the BPPA, we write to condemn your reckless statements labelling all police officers ‘murderers,’ and the corresponding Tweets that undoubtedly incited violence against the proud men and women of the Boston Police Department,” read the union letter from June 2. “To be clear, our officers, arguably the best trained in the nation, deserved better. Your statements were and are dangerous, divisive and wholly unwarranted.”

The Tweet in question focuses on demanding action and radical change, but cites that people in general are being murdered at will by police.

(SPAR Pg. 3)

Charlestown Historical Society goes online for annual meeting

By Seth Daniel

The Charlestown Historical Society (CHS) will take to the internet for the first time in its long history to conduct its annual meeting this coming Thursday, June 11 – which coincides with Dr. Joseph Warren's birthday.

President Julie Hall said they would have an online Zoom and Facebook Live annual meeting that will feature the highlights from the year, a membership drive and guest speaker Christian DiSpigna – a published researcher on Dr. Warren.

Hall said the by-laws of the

organization require an annual meeting at this time each year, and with the COVID-19 restrictions, they were struggling to figure out how to perform that critical function. They decided to turn to technology, and believe they will

(MEETING Pg. 2)

Father Figure: Billy Boyle remembered by family, friends as a guiding hand

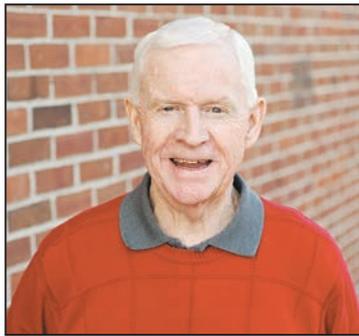
By Seth Daniel

When Billy Boyle's children – now adults – were young, they constantly consulted the 'Firefighter's Calendar' in the house to see when his group, Group 2, would be off for a few days.

That firefighter's schedule – on a few days and off a few days - permitted him to be able to spend time and watch television with the kids. His company was something they looked forward to greatly, said his daughter, Christine O'Keefe.

They were not alone.

Everyone enjoyed his company,



Billy Boyle, shown here a few years ago, passed away last week, and his funeral Mass was held on Weds., June 3, in St. Francis Church.

In his lifetime, Billy Boyle was a legend in Charlestown, growing up here under humble circumstances, raising his family in the Town, becoming a firefighter and at the same time giving his free time to his family and the community. Few who spent more than 10 minutes in the Town didn't know him, and those who did always enjoyed his company or his helping hand in times of trouble.

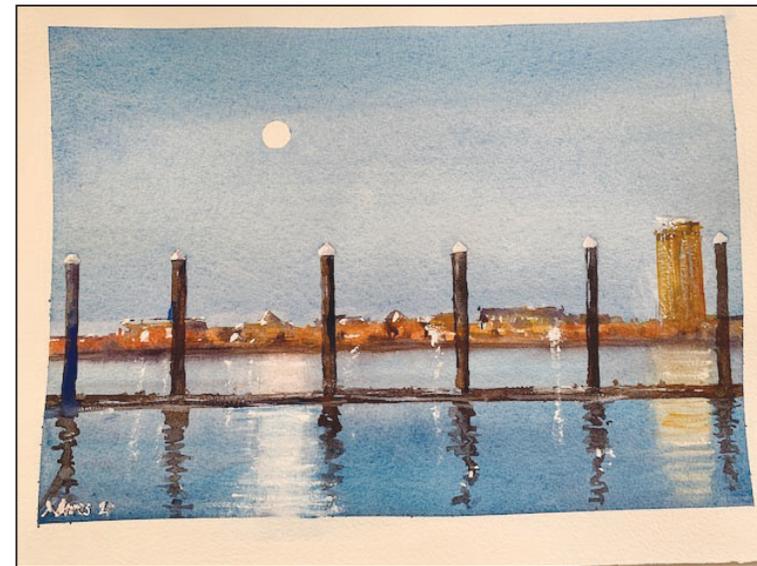
Billy Boyle passed away on Weds., May 27, and his funeral Mass took place at St. Francis Church on Weds., June 3.

“When we were kids we always

(BOYLE Pg. 2)

and he hesitated never to help when he could.

WATERCOLOR CONTEST



A watercolor painting by Norris Strawbridge of a photo of the Charlestown Marina and Boston Harbor submitted by Mary Byrne. See Page 8 for more photos.

For the latest news in Charlestown that you need to know, check charlestownbridge.com

BOYLE (from pg. 1)

looked at the Fire Calendar, and we knew Group 2 usually had Monday to Thursday off," said O'Keefe. "We always loved it when he was home because he would watch TV with us and spend time with us...We're going to miss him. He was our life. He did everything as a husband; everything as a dad and everything as a papa. It was so important that he got to see the community come by two weeks ago for that parade. My nephew saw that and said, 'I knew that papa was a hero, but I didn't know he was a superhero.' That's who my father was."

O'Keefe said the last few months had been very difficult, particularly because of the virus situation and having to be locked down from everyone, and also having to be separated from family while in the hospital seeking care for non-COVID ailments. However, she said he was able to come home to Charlestown for eight days before he passed, and she said there was comfort in that.

He passed happy, she said.

"He got to come home for eight days," she said. "He will be so missed, but he was really, really happy with his life...As incredibly sad as we were to see him go, getting home and being with us in the Town - I'm sure he was a happy man."

Boyle loved being a husband and a firefighter, and O'Keefe said few could boast their love of profession as Boyle could. However, he was also tirelessly dedicated to his wife and his extended Charlestown family.

Cookie Giordano hosted the Charlestown Live television show with Boyle for a number of years, and said she had known him since he was 5. She said his mother was sick when he was young, and so Boyle had come to live with her family for a time.

"At times, he became an extended member of the Whelan family," she said. "With his curly bright red hair, freckled face, sparkling eyes, and yes at times, devilish glances, it was always a delight to have him in the house. Thinking

back on those days in the 1950s, I realize that, with only the change of the color of his hair, he was the same 'kid' to me whenever we got together over the past number of years - a brother, a friend and confidant...Billy's contributions toward the well-being of all who called Charlestown home are for the most part unknown, but the man he was makes him a legend."

Boyle, during what would have been Charlestown Pride Week this week, had spent years leading the Charlestown Against Drugs (CHAD) March on Monday of Charlestown Pride Week, and then heading up Peter Looney Night the following evening. Both were treasured parts of the Bunker Hill week festivities - and CHAD was an organization for which he and his friend, Peter Looney, were tirelessly devoted to. Last year, he announced the transformation of the organization on Peter Looney Night.

He and Looney had helped countless young people and young adults battle against and get over drug dependence. Boyle has been described as one of the "giants" in the early fight in Charlestown, where the epidemic raged long before it was recognized widely.

O'Keefe said they have been overwhelmed by cards from young people and adults they don't even know who credit Boyle with "saving their lives" when they were at their lowest point.

Meanwhile, he was also a charter member of the Bunker Hill Associates, and this week they said they were grieved by the loss of one of their most integral and long-time members.

"Billy was such an integral part of the Associates and he has been with the organization as long as anyone can remember," said Vice President Jimmy Lister, Jr. "He really helped in the evolution of the organization from a small group to what it is today. He also helped found CHAD. He was someone who would get his hands dirty and was ready to help. He was dedicated to this neighborhood he grew up in. He went to work and



A picture from the past of the Charlestown Live hosts, including Billy Boyle in the center.

didn't complain and was able to get difficult things achieved with a smile on his face. He's going to be extremely missed."

Friends like Tom Coots of The Cooperative Bank (TCB) said they would never forget Boyle having "Board meetings" at Zume's Coffee house - calling himself and friends John Kelly and Eugene Brosnahan the "Board of Directors."

Coots remembered how Boyle would quickly respond if someone asked him if he had gone to college.

"He would say, 'I may not have a Ph.D., but I have a DD/214,'" said Coots. "It would roll off his tongue and referred to his service in the Korean War, an honorable discharge being known as a DD/214."

Coots had joined Boyle in many ventures over the past 20 years, he said, including being a co-host on Charlestown Live and participating in the oral history project with the Historical Society - not to mention philanthropy and donation work all around the Town.

"Billy was really a surrogate dad to me and introduced me to so many people in Charlestown," Coots said. "A little bit of the light in Charlestown is dimmed because of Billy's passing. I never knew Billy to say 'no' to anyone who asked for assistance. If he couldn't do it himself, he would find someone who could."

State Rep. Dan Ryan said he had known Boyle since he was a kid, as his father was also a Boston firefighter. Additionally, he was a co-host on television with Boyle for some time as well.

"Billy was a true Patriot, public servant and friend," he said. "I'm going to miss him. The Town is going miss him. His sense of duty was only outshined by his sense of humor and humility. At the start of every speaking program he would Irish whisper 'We are just going to wing it!' He would then lead a fitting, proper, from

the heart tribute to whatever was on the agenda. He had a unique easiness about him."

City Councilor Lydia Edwards said she came to know Boyle as a man who had a rare kindness to him, ready to help with generosity or hard work.

"Billy loved Charlestown," she said. "He lived to celebrate this community and to protect Charlestown's legacy. His acts of kindness and helpfulness for his fellow man are countless and so many were quietly done. He will be greatly missed because men like Billy are rare. A true gentleman, a generous heart, may he rest in peace."

State Sen. Sal DiDomenico had a special bond with Boyle, he said,

often leaning on him for advice or grabbing coffee at Zume's. That was expressed with Boyle receiving the 'Golden Shamrock' award at DiDomenico's St. Patrick's Day Roast a few years back.

"I was honored to call Billy Boyle a good friend," he said. "He leaves a big hole in the fabric of Charlestown. He was a person everyone knew and loved. When you think of Charlestown, you think of Billy Boyle. Billy was a person I leaned on and when I needed advice or counsel, he was the person in the community. I always turned to. He will be missed by us all."

Added his daughter, O'Keefe, "It's clear my father was very, very well liked in the Town."

MEETING (from pg. 1)

have a nice presentation filled with history.

"It's open to everyone as well as our members," said Hall. "We have to have an Annual Meeting every year, but it was hard to get that done without doing it online. I believe it's going to give us an opportunity to kick-off our membership drive too. In the past, the programs have supported us, but we really want to have a push to add new members. We've had a lot of interest from all age groups, especially when we added Instagram. Our mission is to Preserve, Protect and Promote all that is special about Charlestown. It's more than just the Battle of Bunker Hill. There is a long and special culture that is here...Through it all, Charlestown's culture has been so strong and vibrant."

Already, starting this week, Hall and members of the community have been reading one chapter a night of Nathaniel Philbrick's book 'Bunker Hill: A City on Fire.' They hope to read one chapter a night on Facebook Live through next week.

"It's something new we can do online and we hope to have it all done by next Thursday - Dr. Warren's birthday," she said.

The CHS has been particularly active this year in trying to update the recent history of Charlestown from the 20th Century. This year they added the Sweeney Archives that give a first-hand look at the anti-Urban Renewal fights of the mid-20th Century. They have done an oral history project and a living history of the Bunker Hill Development.

The organization is also working on a Civil War veterans project.

Hall said she is excited for the meeting on June 11, and they will also have a surprise find from Paul Lane. She said she is also excited about DiSpigna speaking, as he has created the Dr. Joseph Warren Society non-profit.

The meeting will take place at 6 p.m. online at the Facebook page, (www.facebook.com/CharlestownHistoricalSociety), or on the upcoming Zoom link. It will coincide with Dr. Warren's 279th birthday.



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CLERGY VIEWPOINT

FROM THE CHARLESTOWN CLERGY ASSOCIATION

Saying goodbye

By Very Reverend James Ronan, VF – Pastor, St. Mary-St. Catherine of Siena Parish

Some of the most painful moments of my life have been when I had to say goodbye to someone I loved. As a young man in college, I stood at my father's bedside as he took his last breath. I arrived home in time from Guayaquil in 1991 to be with my mother as she breathed her last. While those goodbyes will remain with me always, many others have been added. Leaving friends, relatives, communities, colleagues and more have all been hard, at times wrenching.

Every one of us can relate to this experience. Moreover, today, in the midst of this deeply painful pandemic, many have had to say goodbye to loved ones in the saddest of circumstances. None of us wants to and should never forget the lives lost in these days.

Furthermore, many of us are facing other goodbyes of a different and unexpected sort. Students are ending their years of study without the joys of graduations

and commencements. Athletes, musicians, and artists are ending a season and/or never even having a season. Everyone is having to say goodbye to their routines and practices at work, commuting, shopping, dining, recreation, socializing, and more.

Something remarkable and infrequently recognized happens in a goodbye. That which we leave behind, whoever or whatever it might be, and which was special and wonderful in our lives, does not end and disappear with its ending. Rather the spirit or essence of that left behind continues with us. Actually, that spirit or essence often is so real and deep that our appreciation and love for what was becomes deeper, richer, and an even more significant factor in our lives than at an earlier time.

Now we stand in these early days of June and every inch of our lives is effected by COVID-19 and often by endings and goodbyes. However, it is not the end.

There is more to be appropriated and learned from what has ended. When I look carefully at those moments in my own life, I recognize that what has ended has often been a gift and my appreciation of what has gone magnifies what has been lost. Often that means grief and sorrow, of course. Yet there is more, for we grow in and through those goodbyes. We become more complete, more seasoned, and grateful.

No life is without loss and goodbyes. It begins when we leave the security and sweetness of our mother's womb and it does not end until we say the final goodbye to life on earth. How we say our goodbyes and live with the richness of our journey can yield a life of joy or endless sadness. Perhaps it all comes down to how we choose to love and be loved. The truth is real love never comes to an end, just as God, who is love, is enduring.

SPAR (from pg. 1)

"Ahmaud Arbery. George Floyd. Breonna Taylor. Tony McDade. Christian Cooper. While we are being murdered at will by the police & their proxy, privileged racists like Amy Cooper play the victim. No more apologies. No more words. Demand action. Radical change now. Nothing less," read the entire Tweet.

The BPPA letter indicates that officers still responded even though they believe her Tweet incited rioters to take action by attacking police.

"Instead of slandering our officers as murderers, you should be highlighting their professionalism and dedication to our City," read the letter.

The BPPA also took umbrage with her comments in a City Hall press conference when she said it was ironic to tell people to follow police commands and not be violent "when in fact it's those very people that murder us with impunity."

"As the chief law enforcement officer in Suffolk County, it was utterly inappropriate for you to make a statement mocking violence," read the letter.

"We know you saw BPD offi-

cers put their lives on the line to keep our City safe. Yet you accuse us of "murder...with impunity" – that is disgraceful."

DA Rollins responded with a Tweet later on June 2 asking why the BPPA didn't put out a letter denouncing the murder of George Floyd, but chose to put out a letter criticizing her.

"You mean Anti-Police BRUTALITY. And did I somehow miss BPPA's letter denouncing the murder of George Floyd and calling for the immediate termination and prosecution of the 4 police that murdered him and/or watched and did nothing while he died? White fragility is real people," read the Tweet.

Meanwhile, also on June 2, DA Rollins put out a press release criticizing the courts for not holding some protestors who were arrested over the last week.

In the release, she cited a number of arraignments that did not go her way, including one arraignment of a Dorchester man for 20 counts of armed assault with intent to murder.

She also issued a statement that seemed to back away from her Tweets towards the letter from the

BPPA.

"Unfortunately, the actions of several unruly and violent individuals are overshadowing the actions of tens of thousands of peaceful, but outraged protesters who gathered all across our beautiful City to demand justice and accountability for this latest group of Black people killed by members of law enforcement or their proxy across the country," said DA Rollins. "More troubling is that several police officers and civilians were injured as a result of that violent uprising. We wish those who were injured a full and speedy recovery.

"I state unequivocally, my discontent is not with the overwhelming majority of police officers who serve our communities with dignity and pride, who are culturally competent and bring honor to the badge they wear," she continued. "No, my outrage is laser focused on the rogue few who believe that they can kill with impunity. And they have been empowered to do so by Mayors across the country that will not fire them and District Attorney's across the country that will not prosecute them. That stops now."

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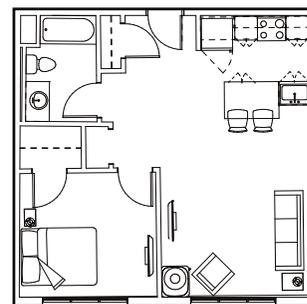
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| 3 | \$126,720 |
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| 5 | \$152,020 |
| 6 | \$163,240 |

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EDITORIAL

MOST OF THE PROTESTERS ARE NOT LOOTERS

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. -- The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

The vast majority of Americans have been sickened by the horrific video of a white Minneapolis police officer slowly and agonizingly choking to death a 46 year-old African-American man, George Floyd.

Mr. Floyd had not committed any act of violence prior to being arrested and was lying prone on his stomach, with his hands handcuffed behind his back, as the officer applied pressure with his knee and the full force of his body weight to Mr. Floyd's neck for eight minutes and 53 seconds.

The murder of Mr. Floyd while in police custody was the culmination of a series of high-profile, race-related incidents in recent weeks that have highlighted the racism that is inherent in our society and that have spurred the protests for the past week in major cities across the country.

What has been striking about the protest movement is that the protesters in every city have been representative of all races and nationalities, similar to the peaceful protest marches and the Freedom Rider movement in the 1960s that were led by Dr. Martin Luther King and other leaders of the Civil Rights movement at that time.

Unfortunately, there always are a few people who will seek to profit from any situation. Those who have been vandalizing property and who have been ransacking high-end retailers, as occurred Sunday night along Newbury St. and in downtown Boston, are professional criminals with lengthy records who have jumped on the protest bandwagon, so to speak, solely in order to take advantage of the diversion of the police created by the peaceful and legitimate protesters.

However, the criminal behavior by a small minority of professional criminals amidst the protesters should not be a basis, either for average Americans or for our political leaders, to fail to acknowledge two important aspects of the current protest movement:

First, that every American has a right of free assembly and second, that our nation must address the rampant racism that exists at every level of society.

Our government leaders who negatively are politicizing the current situation are no different than the criminals who are ransacking the high-end stores. Both are seeking to hijack the legitimate methods and goals of the protest movement for their own ends.

However, we must not allow either the criminal element or unscrupulous politicians to distract us from attaining the goal so eloquently expressed

by Dr. King in his "I Have a Dream" speech before 250,000 persons at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

Fifty seven years later, America still is a long way from realizing Dr. King's dream of racial equality. Hopefully, the sad and tragic events of the past few weeks will rekindle in every American the need to achieve the goal of a just society for all Americans.

The Independent Newspaper Group reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission. The Independent Newspaper Group publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Independent Newspaper Group. Text or attachments emailed to editor@reverejournal.com are preferred.

GUEST OP-ED

Tough conversations

By Damali Vidot

In recent months, our lives have changed significantly. Canceled events, learning/teaching and working from home, lay-offs, masks covering the warm smiles that once greeted us and the fear of illness or loss have lingered on our minds since March. More often than not, we have found ourselves in these unprecedented times feeling lost or confused. Many times, what's brought us back to center has been taking a deep breath and reassuring ourselves that we will eventually be okay.

As if the pandemic weren't enough, last Monday we witnessed the killing of George Floyd. His death, along with the murder of Ahmaud Arbery, who was simply jogging, or Breonna Taylor, who was sleeping in her bed, are three of the many other Black lives

lost that have literally shaken this nation to its core.

As a mother, aunt and mentor to Black and Brown youth, I share the fear of other parents about the safety and future of our children. And our kids are scared too. The truth is, we are all affected by the callous way in which George Floyd was killed. People of all ages, races, religions, and cultures - even elected officials and many police officers themselves - are meeting in the center to say, 'we are better than this.'

While many of us feel stuck on how to address what COVID has magnified, we often feel numb or paralyzed. These feelings are normal and though I too am scared, I am also inspired. I am inspired by the potential we have to make changes in our district. We are called to improve public health, clean up the environment, create housing, reform our criminal

justice system, support our local economy, and make new jobs. The common thread of racial injustice weaves through all these concerns and is exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. We must reimagine our systems and inject equity, dignity, and justice for all.

At a time when even breathing can feel like a gift - whether it's because of the contagions in our air or the injustice our vulnerable communities face - I urge us all to take a deep breath, in memory of and in solidarity with those that are struggling to breathe. Then let us begin again to hold the tough conversations and make immediate policy changes that will uphold the true tenets of justice, equality, and prosperity for the future we can build together.

Damali Vidot,
At-Large Chelsea Councilor

GUEST OP-ED

The Boston Reopen fund is helping small businesses open their doors while keeping our community safe

By Mayor Martin J. Walsh

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the health and safety of the people of Boston has been my top priority. As our city and our state begin a gradual reopening process, based on clear health benchmarks, peoples' health and safety remains my top priority.

Reopening does not mean 'back to normal,' it means bringing a serious commitment to stopping the spread of the virus into our workplaces and community spaces. I am committed to making sure that every small business in Boston understands what steps they need to take in order to keep their employees, their customers, and the community safe. I am equally committed to making sure that none of them have trouble reopening due to a lack of access to resources. That's why we created the Reopen Boston Fund.

The Boston Reopen Fund is a grant program to help small businesses put safety measures in place, including buying personal protective equipment (PPE); installing safety partitions for cus-

tomers and employees; and managing outdoor space approved for business use. These are grants, not loans, so they don't create debt. The grants will be distributed to brick-and-mortar businesses, with fewer than 15 employees, where people work close to each other or to customers. These include businesses in sectors like personal care, retail, food service, arts and entertainment, fitness, and event spaces and bars. The grants will also create more opportunities for local, and minority- and women-owned contractors to provide and install safety materials.

The funds will be released in three rounds, corresponding to the phases of the state's reopening plan. Applications for funding opened on May 28, and grants are being distributed on a rolling basis. For more information, visit Boston.gov/ReopenFund.

This new fund builds on the support we've offered to our small businesses since this crisis began. So far, the City has dedicated more than \$13.5 million to help small businesses impacted by COVID-19. That includes \$5.3 million in grants which we've

distributed to 1,470 small businesses through our Small Business Relief Fund. This fund focuses on businesses in the most-affected industries, including: hospitality, personal care, arts and recreation, retail, and healthcare and social assistance. Businesses that have received grants represent every neighborhood in Boston.

We also created a new online resource dedicated to safety guidelines and resources for purchasing the necessary supplies. It's the responsibility of every business owner to keep their employees safe, but we created this website to help them meet that responsibility. For more information, visit Boston.gov/BusinessPPE.

We continue to hold weekly conference calls for small business owners, offer technical assistance, and provide small businesses with the flexibility they need to continue connecting with customers--- like allowing all restaurants to offer takeout and delivery. Information about these resources and more are available at Boston.gov/Small-Business.

LETTERS to the Editor

A LEGEND

To the Editor,

It's so hard to write a tribute to a man I've known and loved since I was 5 years old when, at times, he became an extended member of the Whelan family. With his curly bright red hair, freckled face, sparkling eyes, and yes at times, devilish glances, it was always a delight to have him in the house. Thinking back on those days in the 1950's, I realize that, with only the change of the color of his hair, he was the same "kid" to me whenever we got together over the past number of years – a brother, a friend and confidant.

Billy lived his faith, served his country in the military and protected his neighbors as a firefighter. But most of all he was a devoted husband, loving father and grandfather, brother and dear friend to countless others.

His duties as co-producer and host on Charlestown's own TV show on BNN-TV Charlestown Live showcased his ability to delight and enlighten his audiences. His programs were always well received, highly viewed and remembered warmly.

Billy's contributions toward the well-being of all who called Charlestown home are for the most part unknown, but the man he was makes him a legend. May he rest in peace.

Kathy "Cookie"
Whelan-Giordano

THANK YOU OLD SCHOOLBOYS

To the Editor,

I would like to thank the Charlestown Old Schoolboys Association for awarding me the Edward Mahan Scholarship this year. This generous scholarship will help tremendously as I enter my senior year at the University of New Hampshire.

Thank you very much.

Nolan Doherty

THANK YOU

To the Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for awarding me the 2020 Joseph and Mary Gill Old Schoolboys Scholarship. As I enter my junior year at Massachusetts Maritime Academy, studying Marine Transportation, I want to thank you for supporting not only myself, but the

Charlestown Community as a whole.

Again, thank you very much for rewarding me with a scholarship.

Devin Gallagher

THANK YOU

To the Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Old Charlestown Schoolboy's Association for awarding me one of their college scholarships. Their continued dedication and support of the Charlestown community demonstrates what it means to be a Townie. This scholarship is greatly appreciated and will help in my pursuit of a degree in criminal justice. Thank you again.

Gratefully,
Jake Reilly

DEEPLY HONORED

Dear Mr. Fitzpatrick and Quinn Scholarship Trustees,

I am deeply honored to be the 2020 Quinn Scholarship recipient and am very appreciative of your support in my education. The generous amount of the scholarship will most certainly ease the financial burden of attending BSU in the fall.

It has been difficult these past couple of months as a high school senior and to not have all the pomp and circumstance of graduation exercises to look forward to, missing prom, awards night, my senior softball season, as well as a graduation trip to the Bahamas. With so much time on my hands in quarantine, it has been both a blessing and a curse. I've had plenty of time between studies to commiserate with my fellow classmates over our current circumstances but I've also had time to reflect on who I am and who I want to be on the next leg of my journey. I've been so fortunate to have grown up in this town. There are so many great people to admire who continue to give back to this community and make Charlestown the best place on earth. My goal is to do the same.

It's amazing that almost fifty-one years after Lt. Quinn's ultimate sacrifice for his Country, he is still giving back to his town with the help of The Lt. Michael P. Quinn Scholarship Trustees and their devotion to keeping his mission alive. I cannot be more proud to earn the title of a Quinn

Scholar.

On behalf of myself and my family I thank you from the bottom of my heart and I look forward to meeting you in person.

Sincerely,

Madison J. Rodriguez
BLS '20

ON THE KILLING OF GEORGE FLOYD

To the Editor,

In Boston we are physically miles away from Minneapolis. But no American city, and, really, no American citizen is separated from what we have seen this week in vivid detail. The killing of George Floyd has catalyzed reactions across the nation. It has done so because it is not a singular, isolated event.

The killing of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis this week was morally wrong and must be legally prosecuted. To say this is to state the obvious, but it is worth saying because there is a powerful link between the moral and legal dimensions of the killing which has now sparked protest across the country. As a nation we entrust power, even lethal force, to our government and its representatives in law enforcement. But there are both moral and legal limits to how force can be used. If officers of the law use force in the way millions of us saw in an eight-minute video, then trust in the government, in the law and in the legal system is deeply wounded. That is why the legal prosecution, following constitutional standards, must proceed with care and urgency. The police failed the moral test in George Floyd's case; now the court will be tested. What is morally wrong must be pursued vigorously by legal standards. That much is lucidly clear.

There is a history here, one documented over decades in print, and now in social media and on television in our homes. The history is clear and tragic: George Floyd was an African American man who died at the hands of a police officer. This is a narrative which has been repeated often and in multiple locations across the country. The history is well documented, but it is known experientially in the African American community in a way that is not widely shared.

The wider community is aware of some cases, but the African

American community lives with the experience and memories of these deaths in an entirely different way. It is a daily reality - one they must speak to their children about and live themselves with some fear.

This gap between different communities in what is one country, one civic community, is the broader reality which this week's events force any of us to reflect upon.

George Floyd's death occurred in the midst of the most catastrophic healthcare crisis in our history. We are all threatened by it. But the African American community has been impacted in numbers far beyond its size in the country. This fact in turn is related to and repeated in other issues of healthcare, employment and housing.

Responding to George Floyd's death reaches beyond one person to some of what it reminds us about in these larger realities of our nation. In responding to his death, some have used violence. I can understand the frustration but I must strongly oppose those methods. For any of us, the singular voice of Dr. Martin Luther King still rings true: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

Cardinal Sean O'Malley

WE FEEL FRUSTRATED AND EVEN HELPLESS

To the Editor,

Today, we reflect on the tragic death of George Floyd, the racist incident in Central Park, the shooting of a Black man while jogging in Georgia - as well as

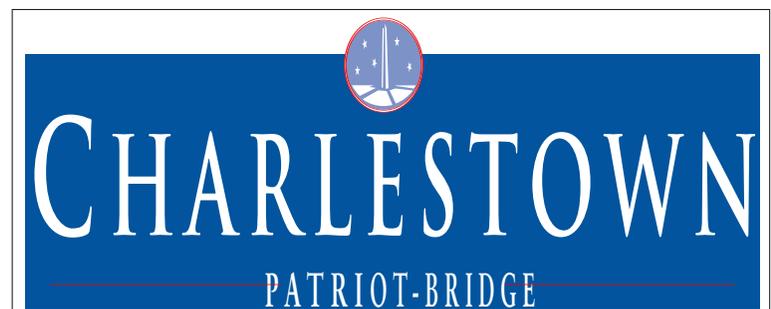
many others. We are saddened and angry about these events that once again laid bare the ugly racism that still exists in this country with particularly deadly consequences for Black boys and men (not that Black women are exempt).

While we are horrified, we are unfortunately not surprised. These are not isolated incidents but a chronic pattern of racial hate crimes that have persisted for hundreds of years. In this difficult time in which communities of color are disproportionately affected by the devastating health, social and economic consequences of COVID-19, this seems too much for these communities - and all of us - to bear.

We feel frustrated and even helpless as we struggle with what to do to fundamentally change the racist systems, structures and culture that contribute to tragedies like George Floyd and so many others. But, we know that as a community, at the very least we must recognize, discuss and grieve the heinous incidences of the past month.

At a time like this, and the many others that will come, we must reaffirm the importance of our mission of "improving the health and well-being of the diverse communities we serve." CCHI strives to model what it means to value all lives. For those disproportionately affected by this pandemic and in memory of those that have lost their lives, we rededicate ourselves to partner with others to root out racism and journey towards equity.

Joan Quinlan
Vice President for Community
Health
Leslie Aldrich
Executive Director, CCHI



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TURN IT AROUND YOUTH GROUP LEADS VIGIL AT PEACE PARK

Photos courtesy JD Mangrum and Shannon White

Community members and faith leaders came together at the Peace Park on Tuesday afternoon for a vigil led by the Turn It Around youth group. Youth members coordinated the planting of flowers to commemorate peace and remembrance. Pastors Erik Maloy and JD Mangrum said a blessing over the park and for the peace and justice in the country.



Omar, Christian, Ariana and Aliyah of Turn It Around.



Erik Maloy of First Church praying for peace and healing in the city and nation.



Flowers planted on Tuesday.

Charlestown Peace Park Community Survey

The Charlestown Peace Park has been selected by COGdesign, a pro bono landscape design service, to create a blueprint for sustainable, desired changes. They deliver final schematic drawings- a master plan, to clients along with a rough cost estimate of the project. Their goal is to create beautiful, resilient green spaces that meet neighborhood needs.

The Coalition's original plan included community meetings where residents could express their opinions and concerns and ask the design team questions in person. Now that we are unable to congregate in large groups due to COVID-19, we ask that community members take this online survey to have their thoughts, opinions and concerns heard.

www.Surveymonkey.com/r/PeaceParkVision

Survey Deadline: June 18th, 2020

To learn more about the Charlestown Coalition, its mission, programs, projects and community partners, sign-up to receive our monthly newsletter at:

CharlestownCoalition.org



Turn It Around program coordinator Mswati Hanks, DJ Smokey Cain, Coalition Director Sarah Coughlin and Coalition Program Director Shannon Lundin-White.



Christian of Turn It Around plants flowers.

PLEASE RECYCLE

TURN IT AROUND YOUTH GROUP LEADS VIGIL AT PEACE PARK



Natalie Mangrum, Shannon Lundin-White, JD Mangrum.

Samuel Arroyo, his daughter Nia, and Shirley Barrios.



Sarah Coughlin, director of the Charlestown Coalition, Mswati Hanks, Turn It Around program coordinator, and Nia.

Sean Boyle joins some friends at the Peace Park on Tuesday to beautify the park in the name of peace and healing.



Turn It Around youth leaders and coordinators.

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Friends of the Navy Yard announce watercolor contest recipients

The Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard (FCNY) announced that three selections were made by Charlestown watercolor artist Norris Strawbridge in its Watercolor Photo Contest. Strawbridge painted the pictures of views from windows submitted

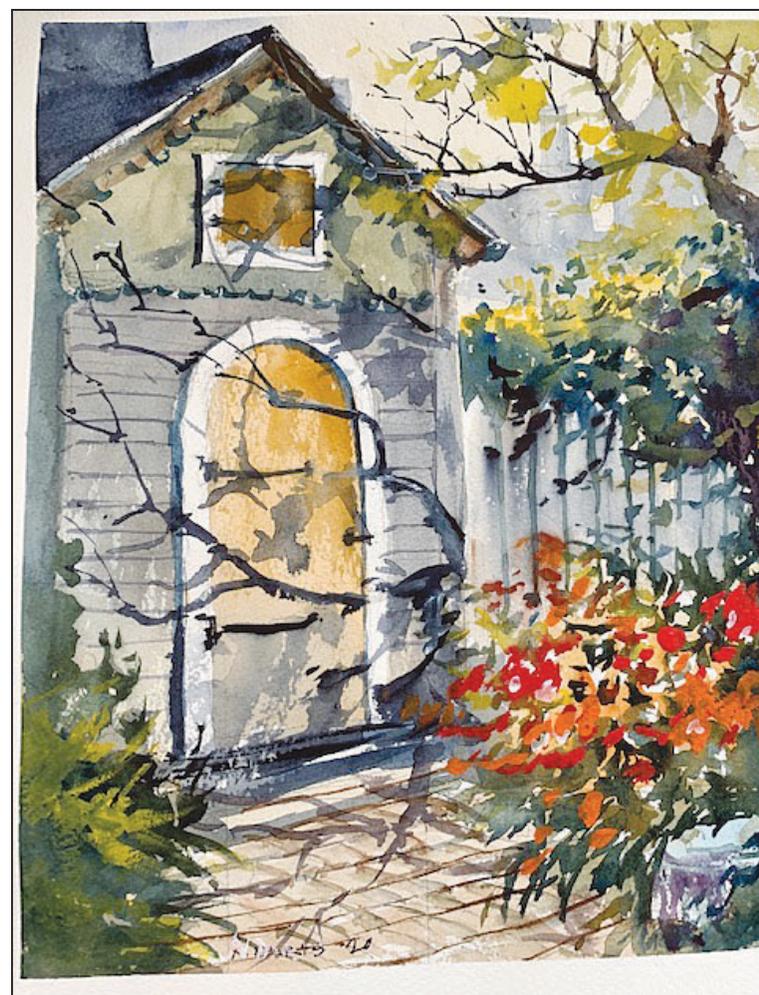
- by:
- Jim Stephens - Charlestown Backyard
 - Roz Angoff - USS Constitution, Thank You
 - Mary Byrne - Boston Harbor
- "It was great fun looking at all the wonderful photographs that

were submitted," said Strawbridge. "I had no idea Charlestown offered so many delightful views from our windows. The photographs range from intimate scenes of backyards to dramatic sunsets over Boston. Many photographs were so spectacular that attempting to capture these amazing renditions in watercolor is beyond my skills. I did select three entries that I felt I could manage to interpret and I hope everyone enjoys my simple sketches as much as I enjoyed the submissions."

All other entrants will receive a Style Café gift card.

Currently, FCNY is holding another photo contest to remind us how important community and art are during these challenging and difficult times. This contest is being judged by Charlestown photographer Ryan Pettaway. The theme is, "Showcase What You Hold Dear in Your Community."

Please submit photos to FCNY in jpeg format at info@friendscny.org by Friday, June 5. The winner will receive a voucher to purchase one of Pettaway's photographs.



The Charlestown Backyard watercolor as submitted by photo from Jim Stephens.



The USS Constitution 'Thank You' watercolor from a photo by Roz Angoff.

OP-ED (from pg. 4)

Our small businesses are the heartbeat of our communities. They hire locally, they circulate a lot of economic vitality back into the neighborhood, they are important to the historic and cultural character of our communities. Many residents rely on them for their own well being. A large percentage of small businesses in Boston are also owned by women,

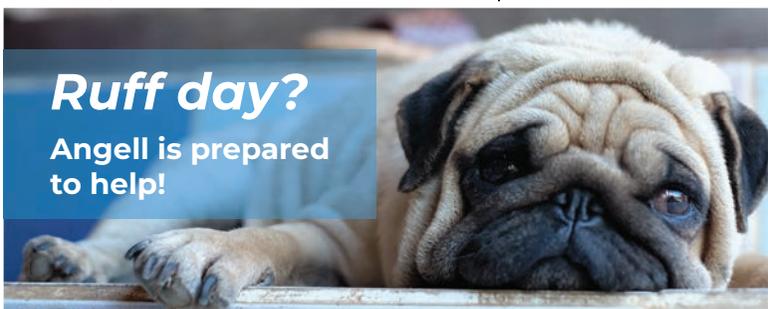
people of color, and immigrants. That's why supporting them is not only important to our economic recovery; it's also one way we are working to achieve equity throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

We know how hard the last few months have been to our small businesses, and that they face a difficult economy in the months and years to come; but we will contin-

ue to support them in every way we can. I encourage everyone who thinks that they can benefit from these resources to visit Boston.gov/Small-Business. Information about other topics like food access, testing, emergency childcare, senior supports, and more are available at Boston.gov/Coronavirus.

Martin J. Walsh is the Mayor of Boston.

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OR JOIN ONLINE

Youth Soccer raises more than \$5,000 through donated league fees

By Seth Daniel

When the spring soccer season had to be called off due to COVID-19 restrictions, there was the matter of registration fees to return that had been paid by hundreds of families enrolled in the Charlestown Youth Soccer season.

President Allen Reitz had given a couple of options, such as returning the money or applying it to next fall's season. Yet, board members came up with a third piece, and that was allowing families to donate their spring fees to Harvest on Vine or the Kennedy Center – a move endorsed by Board member Tim McKenna as something he wanted to try.

It paid off literally and figuratively.

Reitz reported that 53 play-

er fees were donated, which was 12 percent of the total, and that amounted to \$5,070 to help with ongoing food and support efforts at the Town's two major social service organizations.

"I was psyched," said Reitz. "I knew we would have some participation in this, but never thought it would be this much. People simply had the option to donate and so many jumped on board. I want to thank all of our members for their generous support in these challenging times."

The generosity coming from such an unlikely place was a glimmer of hope for an organization – like many youth sports – that are in uncertain territory.

Right now, Charlestown Youth Soccer is planning for their big fall season, but nothing will likely be

the same.

"Everything has been delayed this year," he said. "For the fall season, it's planned. We have opened up our registration. We will have to send the league the players that will be playing and that needs to be sent up by the end of June. The League, though, has now given us until August."

Already, 300 of the players rolled over their fees to the fall, indicating they will play soccer. That was an unknown and welcome news. Many youth sports organizations have worried that parents might not want their kids, and themselves, to play close-contact sports so soon.

"The numbers will grow higher," he said. "What I'll be interested to see is how high the number grow. Some might take the year off and I don't blame them. We've been in discussions about that with the league and the various team presidents weekly."

Phase 2 has featured an accommodation for youth sports and summer camps, but much is still to be worked out – even for the fall

season in sports like soccer.

"Everything is on the table for playing in the fall – including going from two practices a week to one," he said. "We've thought about having the practices with the teams kind of herded together into small areas and they stay within their team."

They are even thinking about reducing the numbers of players on the field during practice from six to four at a time.

"With these restrictions, if anyone got infected, we know what group players were in and we can contact trace and do our due diligence," he said. "It's a whole different way of thinking."

And that is just the start of such different thinking.

One of the biggest worries in all youth sports, including soccer, is for the adults who enjoy being in the stands together or on the sidelines. That is something that may not be part of youth sports in the fall and winter.

"For instance, parents may have to stay in their cars and drop off the kids and not come down to

the field," he said. "We may have to have games where we restrict it to having one parent there per kid. There is a lot on the table in the sense of a new way of doing sports. You hope you can at least get something semi-normal as far as soccer."

That is also bookended with changing some of the rules of the games, including the numbers of players on the field at a time. Reitz said there is talk of taking the standing 11 player teams and having 10 or 9 players at a time to increase distancing during competition.

It's all very new and different, but still uncertain as the phases roll out.

"You kind of have to change your thinking process on the beautiful game if you want to have anything at all," he said. "The last thing I want to do is take temperatures on the sidelines every weekend... We're still in discussions though. Phase 2 isn't really here yet and we don't fully know what it will be like."

e-Inc. hosting science shows on BNN and online

By Seth Daniel

When COVID-19 hit, the e-Inc. children's science program in the Navy Yard took a huge financial hit, and was blanketed in uncertainty with schools closed and hands-on activities cancelled.

Now they have pivoted to produce a series of shows called 'Discovery Planet' that are being shown on BNN and on Facebook and YouTube.

"We wanted to be value added and wondered how to do that," said Dr. Ricky Stern of e-Inc. "At first, we didn't understand there was this opening with technology. I find now we're doing a lovely thing. I am hoping we can get even more people to watch it."

So far they have talked about animal habitats and water as a

resource, and will have other episodes coming up. The staff has been supportive in coming up with the curriculum and Stern has done a lot of the show hosting duties, she said.

"It really is meant to be a serious science lesson, but we also want to give kids things to do and try and make," she said. "It's a little lighter. It's similar to what we do in the schools, but it isn't as strict or tight with a curriculum."

"I use my kitchen a lot," she continued. "You have everything you need like pots and boiling things and water. I'm not sure I'll be a great TV host as there are a few bloopers."

The show can be seen at BNN, or by going to the website at einc-action.org/DiscoveryPlanet.

Real Estate Transfers

| BUYER 1 | SELLER 1 | ADDRESS | PRICE |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Downey, Nicole A | Logan, Janet | 42 8th St #1314 | \$605,000 |
| Owens, Kaitlin | Poore, Audrey | 8 Allston St #1 | \$575,000 |
| Pelletier, Joseph D | Abramson, Jeremy | 13 Bartlett St | \$896,000 |
| Gauthier, Erik | Quigley, Kevin C | 10 Cross St | \$1,330,000 |
| Currie, Nicholas | Smith, Bernard F | 82 Green St | \$1,380,000 |
| Darcy, Brittany M | Walsh, Matthew S | 5 Hancock St #1 | \$632,000 |
| Byrne, Daniel | Emerick, Lisa V | 28 Harvard St #1 | \$939,000 |
| Mackay, Matthew M | Sebastian Moran T | 18-20 Main St #2 | \$460,000 |
| Wade, Mary E | Hubacheck, William P | 403 Main St #1 | \$495,000 |



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Councilor Lydia Edwards reacts to George Floyd's murder and protests

By John Lynds

When District 1 City Councilor Lydia Edwards first viewed the cellphone footage of a Minapolis police officer kneeling on George Floyd's neck until he died she had to stop the video several times.

"I had to stop it several times," said Edwards, who was elected as District 1's first African American City Councilor. "I couldn't watch it to completion. I cried and then got so angry. I just remember thinking the policeman looks so calm. There was no real concern, no sense of urgency. Usually, when I think of police brutality I think it happens in the heat of the moment. There is a sense of urgency and quick thoughts and faster movements. But this officer wasn't scared, wasn't moving fast. He just didn't care."

After the anger Edwards said she remembers feeling immense depression and sorrow.

"I even wished my 5 ½ month old nephew wasn't a boy," she said. "I feel so guilty. I question having children and I certainly don't want to have a boy. I feel immense pressure to do all that I can to make sure something like that doesn't happen here. I have lost sleep and my appetite over the stress. I feel so much is expected of me as a politician who is black. I wonder how "black" I can be? I wonder what will be the straw that breaks my purple district's back. Maybe I am not giving my district a fair chance."

But while cities burn and racial tension is at an all time high, how do we move forward with a positive dialogue among citizens, police and politicians to gain

not only understanding of Floyd's death but to spark real change.

"The pain that people are feeling has to be acknowledged first," said Edwards. "We need to know our history. We can't make policy in a vacuum. We need to confront our own biases and know that if we each have a part to play. We need to stop confusing police accountability with being anti police. It's literally my job to ask tough questions but too many people think that means I don't trust or like the police."

Edwards has always maintained a great working relationship with the Boston Police since being elected. With the majority of officers here just as sad, angry and frustrated by not only the actions of Officer Chauvin but the actions of other officers in other cases, Edwards has the tough job of

balancing her relationship with the police with calls for real reform locally and nationally.

"I encourage any of the police officers to stand with advocates and denounce police brutality," said Edwards. "If we're trying to really solve systemic racism and police brutality, reform needs to happen at an institutional level. We also need to hold bad actors within them accountable. I have great respect for the community police officers. They've been shoulder to shoulder with residents on a multitude of issues. These moments of pain and grief allow us to take a step back and assess how we can do better as a society. We have an opportunity to restructure an entire system. We can work with the police to help define what equitable, compassionate policing looks like. We just ask for full recognition that what we have now isn't working and listen to our calls for true reform. There are calls for several reforms including a citizens review board for police officers that are bad actors. I think that is worth exploring."

With the majority of protesters participating in peaceful demonstrations throughout Boston in memory of George Floyd, Sunday night's rioting, looting and violence was sparked by a small element within a protest that had remained peaceful for several hours.

Watching the news coverage Sunday night, Edwards said she could not speak about the intentions of individuals who decided to turn their actions on the police or if they were even a part of the peaceful demonstration earlier in the day.

However, she said, "I can tell you that the crowd that assembled from Nubian Square to Downtown was beautifully diverse and represented the best parts of Boston. These were residents who took to the streets to call out what happened against George Floyd and other people of color for what it is: acts of police brutality and racism. They assembled to call for action and tangible change against systems of oppression and they did so peacefully. There were many people from other cities that came to cause havoc and I resent them for co-opting the moment."

It's been 52 years since Martin Luther King was assassinated fighting for racial justice. Announcing his death to a crowd in Indianapolis Robert F. Kennedy said, "the vast majority of white people and the vast majority of black people in this country want to live together, want to improve the quality of our life, and want

justice for all human beings who abide in our land."

However, in those 52 years some are still not sure we have had an honest conversation with ourselves as a nation when it comes to race relations.

"There are still people that believe the Civil War was about state's rights and not slavery," said Edwards. "We have people that won't acknowledge the pain of people like my colleague City Council President Kim Janey who was bussed into Charlestown. We don't need to look that far back to know we haven't had an honest conversation in Boston about our school system, our housing and neighborhood segregation. Not talking about race and racism to our children, to our co-workers and to our politicians. After 52 years we are still dealing with this. What can we do? Listen to the pain of the African American community and other marginalized groups. Instead, too many people will call me and others a "snowflake" to dismiss my pain. Legitimize the trauma and pain felt by the African American community in particular after each death at the hands of the police. Acknowledge that we got here through a system of laws and intentional systemic racism. Therefore, we must be intentional and use our laws to heal our community. Personally, everyone should identify structural inequities and analyze how to restructure one's own behaviors to fix it. Learn the full history and perpetuation of racism in this country and how it has set us up for inequality. Most importantly, put words into action. I joined the Black and Latino Caucus of Legislators on Tuesday to release a 10 point plan of federal, state, and municipal actions. I'm over the hashtags - we need prescriptive policies to heal this country."

Edwards said she will continue to her constituents who need to voice their frustrations over this senseless death.

"In times like these everyone is going to process things differently," she said. "I will support my constituents' right to protest and demand change from me and other elected officials. I promise to listen to their frustrations and pain as I think about my role in implementing policy that will lead to change. I don't deny or question their pain. I ask how I can help them heal. This is an opportunity to reassess how we do business. We have been handed a baton and the question is what we are going to do to make this a better world for our children. What are we going to pass onto them?"

For the Record

•Warren- Prescott School Dates:
School has been canceled for the remainder of the year.

•Harvard-Kent School Dates:
School has been canceled for the remainder of the year.

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

Free breakfast and lunch will be provided throughout the school closure.

Meal Distribution sites in Charlestown and the North End:

•Charlestown High School -240 Medford St, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

•Kennedy Center - 55 Bunker Hill St, 8 a.m. - noon

•BCYF Nazzaro - 30 N Bennet St. (North End), 9 a.m. - noon

From the June 5, 11 a.m., COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS WORKING SESSION: The Committee on Government Operations will hold a working session on a petition for a special law re: An Act Authorizing Additional Licenses for the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages to be Drunk on the Premises in Boston and petition for a special law re: An Act Authorizing Additional Licenses for the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages to be Drunk on the Premises in Boston. The Chair of the Committee is Councilor Lydia Edwards. The Sponsors are Mayor Martin J. Walsh and Councilor Frank Baker.

From the June 9, 3 p.m., COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS HEARING: Ordinance banning facial recognition technology in Boston. This matter was sponsored by Councilor Michelle Wu and Councilor Ricardo Arroyo and was referred to the Committee on May 6, 2020.

BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE ON PERMITS

Due to the harsh economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on businesses, the Boston Fire Department is extending the expiration date on all existing Place of Assembly and Annual Permits from June 30, 2020 to September 30, 2020. Any issued Place of Assembly Permit or Annual Permit stating an expiration date of June 30, 2020 will now automatically be valid in the City of Boston until September 30, 2020. The invoices for renewal will be mailed out in mid-August, and the permitting cycle for both Place of Assembly and Annual Permits will become October 1 to September 30 of the following year from this point forward.

REPORTING WORKPLACE SAFETY CONCERNS

•Workers in any size organization have options if they feel they are being pressured into an unsafe situation. Attorney General Maura Healey has created resources for workers to report safety concerns during reopening. They include an online form at the Attorney General's website and a dedicated Fair Labor hotline at 617-727-3465. People can also find those resources by calling 311.

•HOW TO REPORT A PROBLEM PROPERTY

Since taking office in 2014, Mayor Walsh has made fixing quality of life issues a priority in his administration. From investing in Public Works to making sure community policing is a staple in every neighborhood, we are making sure every neighborhood is clean, safe and a great place to live and work in. Unfortunately some properties in Boston need more help than others, and that's why we are here. If you know of a property that fits one of the following criteria: multiple calls to 911, one that's blighted or just a general concern, we encourage you to reach out to your neighborhood liaison.

Testing begins to ramp up, but still far below other neighborhoods

By Seth Daniel

More residents are being tested than previously, but Charlestown still lags far behind the rest of the city's neighborhoods in the numbers being tested – yet at the same time there are still relatively few cases and a rather low percentage of positive cases in those that were tested.

To date, there have been 1,097 residents tested for COVID-19 since the outbreak started, and that's up 125 people from last week, according to numbers released by the Boston Public Health Commission as of May 29 at 12:11 p.m.

In this weeks' numbers, Charlestown reported a total of 172 positive cases of COVID-19 and that was up by 13 cases. Last week the number grew by 10 cases, and the increases week-over-week have hovered in the teens for some time. It is the lowest numbers of cases in any neighborhood in the City and the third lowest infection rate (88.6 per 10,000)

– just behind Fenway and the Downtown/Beacon Hill/Back Bay areas.

Still, though, there hasn't been a major uptick in testing that would bring Charlestown up to where other neighborhoods are at. There were 1,097 people tested by June 1 in Charlestown, which was an increase, but was pretty far behind the next lowest community – Fenway – which had tested 1,863 residents. NEW Health Charlestown has initiated testing in Charlestown two weeks ago, and are still ramping up. However, more testing is needed still, and that site was the first in the Town since the outbreak.

Of those tested, Charlestown has one of the lowest positive test rates in the city, at 15.5 percent. Only the Fenway is lower, but barely, at 15 percent.

Contrastingly, in East Boston, the positive test rate was at 32.7 percent – the highest in the city – but there had also been 4,601 people tested there. East Boston had 1,457 positive cases.

The most testing had been done in South Dorchester, where 7,321 people were tested, and there was a 27.6 percent positive rate. There were 1,945 cases reported there.

The highest infection rates still remained in Hyde Park, where the rate was 308.6 per 10,000 and 1,056 cases. Testing in Hyde Park was at 4,087 people and a positive rate of 26.1 percent.

With the recent return to business for several places, and large-scale gatherings such as protests on the Boston Common, many health professionals are going to be monitoring the numbers carefully and looking for more testing over the next two weeks.

•On the subject of race, Black/African Americans are still disproportionately affected by the virus, having 4,080 cases and 38 percent of all cases in the city. Latinos had the second highest at 26 percent and 2,793 cases. Whites made up 25 percent of the cases in Boston, at 2,685. That did come with incomplete information, as only 84 percent of reported cases had a known race attached to them.

However, when it came to deaths, there were more whites who had died than any other race, having 274 deaths that made up 44 percent of all COVID-19 deaths in the city. Black/African Americans made up 35 percent of deaths, with 221 people. Latinos had far fewer deaths than cases, having 66 deaths at 11 percent of the total. Asian residents made up 6 percent of deaths (40).

This week, the BPHC released infection rates by race using the same substantial, but incomplete, data. Black/African Americans had an infection rate of 258.4 per 10,000, while Latinos had a rate of 195.5 per 10,000. White residents had an infection rate of 86.1 per 10,000, and Asians had the lowest rate at 56.9 per 10,000.

•The gender trend continues to defy the national numbers, with women having more cases of COVID-19, and only a slightly lower infection rate than men.

Women made up 51 percent of all infections in Boston, and had a rate of 182.5 per 10,000. Meanwhile, men accounted for 47.6 percent of cases, and had an infection rate of 184 per 10,000.

Nationwide, men are known to be more affected by the virus than women, leaving Boston as somewhat of an anomaly.

•For age groups, as has been the case for months, the old one is, the more likely they are to get infected. One in three COVID-19 cases came in persons 60 or over.

The largest age group that was affected by percentage were those

ages 50-59. They made up 17.5 percent of all cases, with those 30-39 making up 16.2 percent. Those 20-29 and 40-49 both made up about 15 percent of the cases citywide.

For infection rates, those 80 and over jumped to 603.6 per 10,000 – the highest rates by age and the first time going over 600. Those age 50-79 hovered around a rate 300 per 10,000 rate. Those 0-19 had a rate of 40.9 per 10,000.

•Overall, as of June 2, there were 12,818 confirmed cases in Boston, and 7,103 had recovered. There were 649 deaths recorded. Despite widespread violations, the city curfew of 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. is still in effect and anyone over the age of 2 must wear a face covering when in public and not able to social distance.

COVID-19 Testing Now Available to All Charlestown and North End Residents

NEW Health, a federally qualified health center and an affiliate of Massachusetts General Hospital and Boston Medical Center, has opened its Charlestown COVID-19 testing site to all Charlestown and North End residents.

The site first opened May 18 at 15 Tufts Street in the Bunker Hill Housing Development, the largest public housing development in New England, in response to Charlestown having the lowest amount of COVID-19 testing of any Boston neighborhood. Testing

was available for all residents who had at least one symptom and a referral from their primary care provider. The testing has now expanded to all residents of Charlestown and the North End, without a referral and even if they are not showing any symptoms. Proof of residency is required.

The testing site is open Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and appointments are required to reduce crowds and wait time. Testing is conducted both by walk-up and drive-through. Appointments can be made by calling 857-238-1100. A telehealth visit is conducted prior to the onsite testing visit, both of which are covered by all major health insurance providers; if patients have no insurance or insurance does not cover, the tests will still be provided.

“Our mission is to improve the quality of health and life for the residents of Boston's North End, Waterfront and Charlestown, and this critically-needed testing site reflects that,” said NEW Health CEO James Luisi. “I am proud of our staff and the community coming together during these trying times. We also plan to establish an additional testing site in the North End in the coming weeks.”

In conjunction with the crucial testing for the community, NEW Health is also focused on supporting those facing food insecurity. Patients being tested who indicate they are unable to purchase necessary groceries also receive super-market gift certificates.

NEIGHBORHOOD ROUND UP

FCNY PHOTO CONTEST OPEN TO ALL

To remind us how important community and art are during these challenging and difficult times, FCNY is sponsoring a Photo Contest, inspired, and judged, by Charlestown photographer Ryan Pettaway. The theme is, “Showcase What You Hold Dear in Your Community.” Please submit your photos to us in jpeg format at info@friendscny.org by Friday, June 5th. The winner will receive a voucher to purchase one of Ryan's photographic masterpieces. To view some of Ryan's work at visit: <https://www.instagram.com/igcharlestown/> or <https://www.ryart.net/>

JOIN THE CHARLESTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Now is a great time to join the Charlestown Historical Society. Look for their ad in this week's paper for details. Or, visit their website: charlestownhistoricalsociety.org.

CHARLESTOWN BRANCH LIBRARY REMAINS CLOSED

All locations of the Boston Public Library, including the

Charlestown Branch, remain closed. Please do not make returns or donations until the library re-opens. All of our online services, collections, and programs are available at the BPL website at www.bpl.org. If you need a library card, sign up for an e-card at www.bpl.org/ecard. If you are having trouble with your card or need assistance, email the library at ask@bpl.org. Do you need to call the library? Call General Reference at 617-536-5400 and Tech Assistance at 617-859-2323. To contact the Charlestown Branch Library, email Branch Librarian Maureen Marx at mmarx@bpl.org, Children's Librarian Eileen Whittle at ewhittle@bpl.org, and Adults Librarian Kathy Kire at kkire@bpl.org. Stay in touch with the Charlestown Branch of the Boston Public Library by visiting our Facebook page.

ESSEM ART STUDIO VIRTUAL PROGRAMS:

Looking for creative projects to engage your kids? Essem Art Studio's Toddler Art + Learn series (18+ months) and Virtual Art Labs (3-13 years) are the perfect way to engage your little ones at home. Visit www.essemartstudio.com for more information or email Sophia Moon hello@essemartstudio.com with any inquiries.

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Wakefield company vying to replace Mystic Generation Station with wind power “highway”

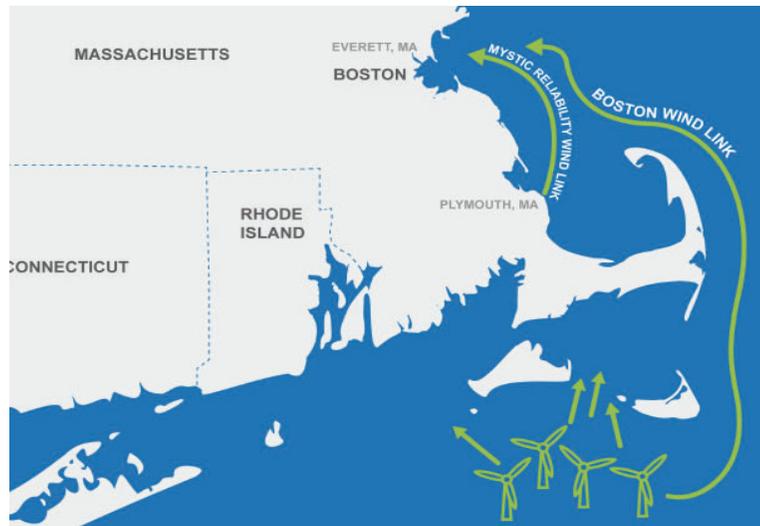
By Seth Daniel

For decades, environmental activists and hopeful residents have opined for the day that clean wind power could replace the gas-powered Mystic Station powerplant on Everett’s waterfront, just a few hundred yards away from Charlestown’s heavily residential areas.

Now, that day could be closer than ever as the Anbaric company has put in a proposal to ISO New England – the region’s power grid manager – that calls for going ahead with the planned closure of the Mystic Station, and replacing it with a major power line tied to off-shore wind power that is now being built in federal waters of the Massachusetts coast.

The Mystic Reliability Wind Link is one of several projects proposed to ISO New England as part of an RFP process last December, but a project that could transform the region’s power source to clean and renewable – and according to Anbaric – in a responsible way that could leave Charlestown’s air cleaner and its waterfront accessible.

“Massachusetts residents recognize the vital importance and potential of renewable energy,” said Theodore Paradise, Senior Vice President for Transmission Strategy at Anbaric. “The retirement of Mystic is once-in-a-generation opportunity to tap into our growing offshore wind resource, reduce air pollution and avoid often-delayed overland transmis-



The Mystic Reliability Wind Link project, as just proposed to ISO New England, would connect Plymouth to Everett’s grid infrastructure and allow the Mystic power plant to be retired and replaced with a cleaner use.

sion. Our Mystic Reliability Wind Link proposal will strengthen reliability and help set the stage for the next generation of clean energy in the region.”

Paradise added the Mystic Station is a great pollutant in Everett and Charlestown. He said that since 2009 it has emitted more than 27 million tons of climate-changing CO2, more than 3,000 tons of NOx and more than 4,000 tons of SO2, both of which he said are linked to adverse respiratory and cardiovascular health impacts.

Anbaric said they are one of several companies that have responded to that RFP from last December, and they hope to become one of four semi-finalists announced in July or August. The RFP is all about retiring the Mystic Station,

which was announced last year suddenly by its parent company, Exelon. There are three units that were announced by Exelon to be retired. ISO New England said it would allow Unit #7 to be retired, but required Exelon to keep Unit 8 and 9 open so there would be enough power produced for the region. That, however, meant a \$300 million subsidy that had to be paid to Exelon to keep the units open until 2024. That was spread out across New England, so while it was costly, it wasn’t crippling to consumers. That said, after 2024, that subsidy will be spread out only between eastern Massachusetts consumers and will create quite a cost pinch.

It was with that background that ISO New England put out the RFP to explore what could responsibly replace the Mystic Station if it was to completely be retired and, likely, redeveloped. Of all the proposals, Anbaric’s is one that proposes 1,200 MW – and eventually 2,400 MW – of



The Mystic Generation Plant on Everett’s Lower Mystic River waterfront. The plant has proposed to retire all three generation units, and a new poll from a company proposing to replace it with wind power found more than 70 percent of people polled in Greater Boston preferred to get rid of the old power plant.

power to be shipped on a buried wind-power “highway” from Plymouth to Everett.

Using power that would be generated by off-shore windfarms now in the beginning stages of development 25 miles off the coast of southeastern Massachusetts, those wind farms would be tied into the old Pilgrim Nuclear plant in Plymouth. Anbaric’s project would run an electrical wire link for 45 miles up the coast six feet under the ocean floor. Once they get off the coast of Revere, they would tunnel under Revere Beach and onto Rt. 16. The link would then be taken through Revere, Chelsea and Everett in one lane of Rt. 16. It would end in a switch yard on a five-acre piece of property owned by the Berberian Family on the banks of the Malden River in the Everett.

The final leg would be from that switch yard down to the Eversource substation in Charlestown across Alford Street

from the Encore Boston Harbor casino. More than that, it would result in a clearing of the waterfront from the industrial use of the powerplant on numerous acres – a power plant that thousands of Charlestown residents have looked at and breathed in for generations.

“The thing that changed since Cape Wind was where off-shore wind farms are built,” Paradise said. “The real problem with Cape Wind was you could see it. The technology has changed now. These farms are now built far out – 24 or 25 miles out – beyond the horizon line. No one can see it and they’re out in the federal waters. When I’m around...the Mystic River area, you are right there on a very nice waterfront, but the people have very little access to the waterfront because it is taken up by the power plant and industrial uses. This would open that waterfront up to development and likely restore access too.”

Paradis said they could be ready to begin on June 1, 2024.

He said that is one reason they really hope to get the community supporting their project, and to have ISO New England choose them or another green project to advance to the next stage of evaluation is because it is plausible, environmentally-friendly and different.

“We’re hopeful they don’t say they will just open up the streets of Boston again and run more wires under them,” he said. “We hope ISO thinks about renewable uses and what can be built quicker. We expect to hear in July or August which direction they want to go. We’re hoping our project is one of them. I hope they really don’t consider the same old thing because it’s what they’re used to. It can be hard to get people away from what has been perceived to work again and again.”

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